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5-10 p.m. MR. CHAIRMAN : I now put the Resolution to the vote of the House. The question is—

" This Council recommends to the Government that the disparity in scales of pay as among the Higher Grade teachers in the various elementary schools under the various agencies in the State be removed ".

The Resolution was put and declared lost.

A poll was demanded and vote was taken.

(After the name of Sri M. Ethirajalu was called by the Secretary, Vidwan T. Muthukannappan entered the Chamber.)

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, the hon. Member Vidwan T. Muthukannappan came into the Chamber just now. His name should not be included in the counting.

(Vidwan T. Muthukannappan's name was not included in the counting.)

The House divided thus—

Ayes.

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar.
,, V. K. John.
Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar.
,, V. V. Ramaswami.
Dr. A. Chidambaranathan.
Sri Mohamed Raza Khan.
,, L. S. Karayalar.
,, G. Krishnamoorthy.
Dr. A. Sreenivasan.

Noes.

The Hon. Sri R. Venkataraman.
Sri P. S. Krishnaswamy Ayyangar.
,, M. Ethirajalu.
,, A. Gajapathy Nayagar.
,, T. Purushotham.
,, A. M. Allapichai.
,, M. Seshachariar.
Dr. Mahomed Usman.
Srimathi Jothi Vencatachellum.
,, S. Manjubhashini.
Sri N. Annamalai Pillai.
Srimathi Mary C. Clubwala Jadhav.
Sri V. M. Surendram.

Neutral.

Nil.

Ayes—9. *Noes*—13. *Neutral*—Nil.

The Resolution was lost.

(5) CONSTITUTION OF A COMMITTEE FOR THE WELFARE OF WOMEN.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Sir, I move the Resolution standing in my name, namely :—

" This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of lady Members of both Houses of the Legislature be constituted to enquire into and report on the social disabilities of women and the social welfare measures to be instituted in this behalf at State level ".

I feel, Sir, I need not dwell at length upon the merits of this Resolution. I am sure the hon. lady Members behind me will more eloquently put forward the plea for a Resolution of this kind. In

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the days of foreign rule, the foreigners were afraid of introducing any social reforms, but now this is our Government, and we should take the responsibility for removing all social disabilities of women. (Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar : Are not men suffering from social disabilities?) I need not dwell on this point when the Constitution provides for social justice and equality in all directions—social, economic and political. All this could be achieved in a Welfare State, if we introduce the necessary reform in our social structure. I have particularly proposed that this Committee should consist of lady Members of both Houses, because it had been the common plea among men, whenever any social reform was proposed, that women were against it, and that the women in our houses were opposed to any progress in this direction. It is because I felt that such a blame should not be there and that women themselves should meet and decide what reforms should be introduced in our State, I have proposed that a committee consisting of lady Members of both Houses should meet, discuss and submit proposals to Government in what directions social reforms should be taken up. We note the other day a non-official Bill for the abolition of the dowry system was introduced in the other House.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : By whom?

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : By a non-official member in the other House.

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Male or female?

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : By a male member. It is such measures that should receive the attention of the Government. Social Welfare Conferences have been held, and they have put forward concrete proposals for the consideration of the Government. They have put forward proposals for the removal of social disabilities of women and for social welfare measures generally.

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : What are the disabilities from which women suffer to-day?

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : That is what I want the lady Members themselves to consider and put forward for the consideration of the Government. We are also having women's conferences, and those conferences have placed before the Government certain Resolutions which have not been considered so far. Of course, equality in the matter of property has been conceded by Government. This is a Central subject. Women have now come to realise their place in social progress. For instance, the other day my hon. Friend was referring to the need for family planning. Even here, I am glad to learn from friends who are in charge of this branch of work that married women under confinement nowadays offer themselves for necessary treatment. They also prevail upon their husbands to agree to the latest methods of treatment in regard to family planning. I am mentioning this because there

was some doubt expressed some time back whether the family planning scheme would be a success. I say that women are no longer a drag on society in our programmes for progress. They are ready to shoulder any responsibilities for the progress of society and the nation as a whole. That is why I have brought forward this Resolution so that the lady legislators of both Houses can meet, discuss, and submit concrete proposals to the Government.

With these words, I move this Resolution for the acceptance of the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and the entire House. (Sri Mohamed Raza Khan: You yourself will withdraw the Resolution later on.)

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR: I second the Resolution, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of lady Members of both Houses of the Legislature be constituted to enquire into and report on the social disabilities of women and the social welfare measures to be instituted in this behalf at State level".

The Resolution is before the House for discussion.

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI: அப்படி ஒரு கமிட்டி நியமிப்பதாக இருந்தால் ஸ்ரீ டி. புருஷோத்தம் அவர்களையும் ஒரு அங்கத்தினராகச் சேர்க்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: I am not a lady.

5-20 * SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI: Mr. Chairman, I do not see how
.m. this Resolution is very necessary. As a matter of fact, wherever they may be—whether in India or England or America—ladies are generally conservative. There is no doubt about that. They are more conservative than men. As far as reforms for ladies are concerned—whatever the reform may be—it is the men that have to take the initiative. Take, for example, their right to stand for elections. Even without any effort on their part, the Indian women were able to achieve that right. For getting the same right, British women had to put up so many fights. My hon. Friend Sri Purushotham seems to think that women are under a very great disadvantage. Certainly not. I totally disagree with him in this respect. It is the lady that rules over the world. There is no doubt about that. (Laughter.) The mother rules over the son, the wife rules over the husband (laughter), the sister rules over the brother. It is going on in that fashion. Therefore, I do not understand how they are subordinated. No doubt, in the past, that is, in ancient days, when views held by people were different, it was a different matter altogether. Now, why should it be said that only ladies should be members of the proposed Committee?

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SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : May I know whether the hon. the Deputy Chairman is giving his personal married experience? (Laughter.)

* SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : Yes, I am speaking from personal married experience. (Laughter.) What I wish to suggest is this. This Resolution is not at all important. Because, there is our Constitution, which lays down certain directive principles. If the ladies feel compelled to do some such thing, they are the best judges. I would like to know from the hon. Member Sri Purushotham whether he has taken the permission of the lady Members of the other House (laughter) for moving such a Resolution. Perhaps, they may themselves resent such a Resolution.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : I may tell the hon. Member that I have informally consulted the lady Members of both the Houses.

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : I want to know whether he has consulted Mrs. Purushotham. (Laughter.)

* SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : I think the best thing is to leave matters as they are. No doubt, wherever possible, representation is being given to them. Even the other day, on the floor of this House, when the District Development Councils Bill was being considered, we pleaded for representation for women. Like that, we would be appealing to the Government to nominate as many women as possible to the various bodies. We will always appeal to the Government to give representation to lady members and other minorities. So, I am not saying anything against the ladies. If we want them to function effectively, they request the help of men. Without men's help, it is not possible for them to function effectively. Therefore, no one need think that men are so cruel and horrible as not to help women. As a matter of fact, men will go to any length to help women. It is a fact that we are all doing that. (Laughter.) That being the case, why should our friend think otherwise? Now, he wants to throw the entire responsibility of looking after ladies on ladies themselves, as if men have nothing to do with them and the ladies can get on without the help of men. Nothing of that sort. The proposed committee will not serve the purpose for which it is proposed to be constituted. I am sure about it. Does my hon. Friend Mr. Purushotham mean to say that men do not know the disabilities from which the ladies suffer? It is not correct for him to think like that. We know their disabilities.

SRIMATHI S. MANJUBHASHINI : Not all men.

* SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : We know their disabilities.

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : பிள்ளை பெறுவதிலுள்ள சிரமம் அங்கத்தினருக்குத் தெரியுமா ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the House is getting very frivolous. (Laughter.)

* SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI : Men know the disabilities of women. I think my hon. Friend Mr. Purushotham has got some prejudice and is doubtful that men may not help women. It is not correct. I feel that this Resolution is not at all necessary.

SRIMATHI MARY C. CLUBWALA JADHAV : Mr. Chairman, I thank the Mover of the Resolution. But, he has not consulted me at all. (Laughter.) I fully support the idea that there should be Women's Committees consisting of lady Members of the Legislature. There are many measures which do not affect women and children. It is true that men give us full support in various matters. But, there are certain matters which affect the ladies only and the ladies must have their own representatives to attend to such matters. No doubt, the women of India have got so many rights without much effort, in contrast to British women and American women and they are an envy to others. Still, there are many disabilities from which the women are suffering. So, I do feel that we should have our committee to deal with such matters and help the women. I support the Resolution so ably moved by the hon. Member Mr. T. Purushotham. I am very glad that a gentleman-Member has introduced this Resolution and I once again wholeheartedly support it.

* SRIMATHI S. MANJUBHASHINI : Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the Resolution moved by the hon. Member Sri Purushotham. I very much appreciate the sentiments expressed by him and also Mrs. Jadhav. The hon. Deputy Chairman probably thought that this Resolution was a sort of complaint against men as such. That is not so. The disabilities experienced by women can only be visualised and realised by women. For the support of this argument of mine, I would like to quote a very great social worker, Mrs. Durgabai Deshmukh. She has made several statements in this connection. The Central Government have recently formed a National Committee on Women's Education. When she was here recently, she observed that wherever she went, she noticed the very low percentage in respect of women's education and that there were very many disabilities from which they were suffering. Actually, there is no harm in passing a Resolution of this kind. This committee will be able to bring to light the many problems facing women. I strongly support the Resolution. Of course, the Government have given us some representation in the Legislature. If any class or if any section of humanity can be classed as backward, it is women that qualify for it. There is no doubt about it. I am very glad that my hon. Friend Sri T. Purushotham has moved this resolution. I hope the Government will give its earnest consideration to it and accept it.

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, after hearing the eloquent speech of my esteemed Friend T. Purushotham who said that the days of chivalry were over, I feel that he could have easily taken on the role of the Knight of the Round Table of King Arthur. But, in his enthusiasm, he has overlooked a few facts. There are already committees to look after the welfare of

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women in the State. We have the State Social Welfare Advisory Board and also the State Advisory Committee for Women's Welfare. Members of the Legislature are also members of these committees and certainly they are looking into all the disabilities encountered by women. Surely, they are doing excellent work in relation to disabilities like lack of educational and medical facilities, meagre family income, social disabilities, desertion by husband, destitution and so on. While there is a case for an informal committee among women Members of the Legislature to discuss such things and formulate their views on social and other problems, a committee at State level is certainly not called for. It will only lead to duplication of work and detract from the useful work which is being done by the other two committees. Therefore, the Government, while commending the principle underlying the Resolution, would ask the lady Members to see that the Resolution is resisted. 5-30 p.m.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : I wish to assure the Hon. the Leader of the House that my main purpose in bringing forward this Resolution was . . .

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : To withdraw. (Laughter.)

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : To have a sort of a forum for women Members to express their views with regard to their social rights and on all matters connected therewith so that common action for social progress can be taken by the Government. The Hon. the Leader of the House could still consider the case because he has stated that in principle he agrees that there is need for such a thing.

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I said that while I agreed in principle, lady Members of the Legislature could form themselves into an informal committee among themselves, and that a formal committee of the kind mentioned in the Resolution was not required.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : I hope hon. Members . . .

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Will accept my advice. (Laughter.)

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Hon. Members will remember what the Hon. the Leader of the House has said and I may tell Mrs. Clubwala Jadhav that I did consult her during the last session when I gave notice of the Resolution. But I never thought that the Resolution would be reached to-day. Otherwise, I would have told her in time about that. I am glad the lady Members appreciate the principle behind the Resolution. In view of the very interesting discussion that has taken place and the appeal made by the Hon. the Leader of the House, I have no objection to withdraw the Resolution.

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* SRIMATHI MARY C. CLUBWALA JADHAV: May I say, Sir, that there is one disability women Members here suffer from? Whenever you announce the names of Members appointed to a committee, only one lady Member finds a place there and her name comes last in the list. That is a social disability.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you consider it so, I shall put the name of the lady Member first every time. (Laughter.)

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI: If it comes last, it shows that they are big enough to support all others above. (Laughter.)

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next and last Resolution relates to delimitation of Madras Graduates and Teachers Constituencies, given notice of by Sri K. M. Ramasamy Gounder. He is not here and he does not want the Resolution to be taken up to-day. So, the Resolution is deemed to have been withdrawn. He must give fresh notice of the Resolution.

The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, the 17th September 1958.

The House then adjourned.